

## The Great War—1434th Day

would, of course, add a great deal to its effectiveness.

It is subject matter for comment here that the decision of the United States to participate with the Allies on military program in this war comes at just the time when certain propagandist representatives of this country who have been in Russia have returned to Washington after an unsuccessful attempt to keep Russia in line by literary efforts.

## Lenine Apologizes For Mirbach Murder; Will Guard Embassy

**BASEL, July 7.**—Nikolai Lenine, Bolshevik Premier, has sent the following message to M. Joffe, Russian Minister at Berlin, regarding the assassination of Count von Mirbach, the German Ambassador at Moscow:

"Two unknown men entered the German Embassy in Moscow on Saturday afternoon, having documents from a special committee. They threw a bomb in Count von Mirbach's office, wounding him so severely that he died. Representatives of the government immediately visited the embassy and expressed indignation at the act, which they considered a political maneuver to provoke trouble. The government is taking every measure to discover the murderers and bring them before a special revolutionary tribunal.

"Extra measures have been taken to protect the German Embassy and citizens. The government requests you to express to the German government the Russian government's indignation and convey its sympathy to the family of the late count."

## "Good for Russia," Kerensky Exclaims When Told of Murder

**PARIS, July 7.**—As soon as the news of the assassination of Count von Mirbach, German Ambassador at Moscow, came to M. Tchitcherine, the Russian Foreign Minister, he and his associate, M. Karakhan, called at the German Embassy and expressed the regret and indignation of the government at the occurrence, says a Berlin dispatch, forwarded by the Havas correspondent at Basel.

The identity of the assassins has not been established, nor have they been arrested, the message states.

It appears, according to these dispatches, that with Count von Mirbach when he was attacked were here, the counsel of the embassy, and a German officer. Neither was injured. Alexander F. Kerensky, former Premier of Russia, when informed by the Associated Press of the murder, declared that while he could not "feel elated at the death of a human being," he did not help saying, "It is a good thing for Russia."

M. Kerensky seemed reluctant to believe the news, asking repeatedly, "Are you sure?" When informed that the news seemed reliable, as it originated in Berlin, he said:

"This may be the beginning of the renaissance of Russia."

"But now the Germans will surely go to Moscow," he added, sadly.

It was only a few days ago that Kerensky, in a talk with the correspondent, expressed his opinion that the German troops had not yet appeared in Moscow was because von Mirbach had not required their presence there.

"Should circumstances demand the appearance of German troops," said the former Premier on this occasion, "von Mirbach, the real ruler of Russia, will surely call upon them. His ability to govern without the help of German troops has alone prevented the appearance of German troops in the ancient capital of the Muscovite Empire."

When asked about the prospects of a revolution breaking out in the former Premier was non-committal.

"One never knows what the Russian mind will conceive or what the Russian will execute," he said. "But from Moscow will come the initiative for a movement against Germany."

In their comments on the assassination of Count von Mirbach the Paris papers are unanimous in expressing the opinion that the event will be likely to cause complications, the importance of which cannot be gauged.

The first awakening of the vengeance of Russia against Germany is the light in which "Le Journal" views it, while the "Petit Journal" wonders if it will not open a new phase of Germany's difficulties in the East.

"In the state of tension existing between Russia and Germany," says the "Figaro," "this assassination may lead to the most interesting complications. 'Humanité' considers the act not a vulgar assassination, but 'an act of

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## THE NEW ALLY



The above map shows the sparsely settled, but strategically important, Murman coast, which a Copenhagen dispatch says has declared its adherence to the Allied cause.

The harbors of Kola and Murmansk are ice free all the year around, and are therefore coveted by Finland and her German masters.

open rebellion by exasperated patriots.

The assassination, as the "Matin" was it, shows that there are still in Russia men concerned with the dignity of their country and imbued with patriotism, and the "Petit Parisien" comments that it "was probably patriotic indignation caused by the approach of this declared invader which provoked the killing."

## People of Murman Coast Secede to Join the Entente

**COPENHAGEN, July 7.**—The entire people of the Murman coast (on the Kola Peninsula, bordering the White Sea and the Arctic) has broken with Russia and joined the Entente, according to a dispatch from Vardoe, Norway, to the Christiania "Tidens Tegn."

A supply of provisions from the United States has arrived at Murmansk, the dispatch adds.

British and French troops are reported to have landed at Murmansk, on the northeast coast of the Kola Peninsula, early in April of this year and to have been cooperating with the Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates in the defense of the Kola and Murman coast against German attacks by Finnish White Guards. Russian Red Guards were also acting with the British and French troops, under the direction of the Murman Soviet War Council, which consisted of one Englishman, one Frenchman and one Russian.

The ports of Murmansk and Archangel are the two main outlets in the north. At both these bases large quantities of supplies, some of which were shipped from the United States before the Russian revolution, have been assembled.

In June of this year the Finnish government gave assurances to the Russian government that it had no intention of occupying the whole Murman coast, but only that part promised to Finland at an earlier date by the Russian government; but in the latter part of that month it was reported that German troops were steadily advancing toward the Murman railway by two routes—along the Torneo and Konda rivers toward Kandalaska and from Kola by the Kem River toward Kem. They were then building a military railroad along both routes.

It was reported a few days ago that the people of Murmansk had asked the Entente to consult the Murman railway by two routes—along the Torneo and Konda rivers toward Kandalaska and from Kola by the Kem River toward Kem. They were then building a military railroad along both routes.

## Allies May Operate On Murman Coast Under New Policy

**WASHINGTON, July 7.**—The Murman coast is one of the possible fields for operations by the Allies in the East under the new policy toward Russia believed to have been approved by President Wilson at the White House conference yesterday. Just what form of activities will follow under the new programme, however, is believed to rest almost wholly with the supreme war council at Paris.

In the absence of any word from Ambassador Francis since June 24 the State Department has been obliged to rely upon the most indirect and unsatisfactory reports of what is going on in Russia.

The last message from the ambassador reported the arrest of local civil authorities of Archangel, capital of the province of that name, in which Kola is located. The Bolsheviks had seized the officials on charges of disloyalty, and some of the prisoners passed through Volodga, where Ambassador Francis is located, on their way to Moscow.

## Guard Is Thrown Around Entire Embassy District

**LONDON, July 7.**—The whole quarter in Moscow where the German Embassy is situated was immediately surrounded by troops after the assassination of Count von Mirbach, according to a Russian government message received here by wireless. Severe control has been established over all persons arriving at and leaving the city.

An envoy extraordinary will be sent to Berlin to express to the German government the indignation of Russia over the criminal act.

## Poles, Allied With Czechs, Capture 3,000 Germans

**LONDON, July 8.**—Polish forces are fighting the Germans in cooperation with the Czech-Slovaks, according to "The Mail's" correspondent at Copenhagen. He quotes Polish newspapers as saying that the first Polish corps, under General Munitski, is engaged against the Germans and that the second corps, under General Michaelis, has crossed the Dnieper and joined the Czech-Slovaks.

This latter force was surprised at night by the Germans and a four-days' fight followed, the Poles capturing 3,000 prisoners. The date when this battle began is not given.

**Typhoon in Philippines Damages Ports and Ships**

**MANILA, July 7.**—Wires were blown down and other damage was done by a typhoon, which struck the Philippines yesterday.

A Japanese steamer, bound for the United States by way of the Philippines, was blown on the beach of a Philippine port and imbedded in the mud.

## The Official Statements

**ROME, July 7.**—The Italian War Office to-day made the following statement:

Between the Sile and the Piave our troops, having reached with perfect maneuvering and irresistible elan the right bank of the new Piave and driven the enemy to the other side of the river, are now fortifying themselves on the vast tract of ground recaptured, every yard of which shows traces of the epic struggle and furnishes proof that the enemy's losses were much higher than he had foreseen.

The 23d Army Corps, having carried out the difficult operation victoriously, has added new laurels to its glory. The 4th Infantry Division particularly distinguished itself. The bearing of the troops was splendid. The infantry, among whom were a marine regiment and parties of the Royal Customs Guard, fought with ardor. The artillery of the army corps and the royal navy group contributed notably to the success with its very effective fire.

Our own and the Allied airplanes and those of the Italian royal navy participated with unusual daring. Special honor for the great valor shown is due the 33d Sapper Battalion of Engineers.

On the Asiago Plateau a French party carried out a brilliant raid into the enemy lines at Zocchi, overcoming the garrisons in a lively struggle and capturing two officers, sixty-four of other ranks and two machine guns.

Between the Frenzela Valley and the Brenta the enemy three times attacked our position on the Corone. He was sanguinarily repulsed.

## Vienna Admits Loss of Piave West Bank

**VIENNA, July 7.**—The Austrian official war statement to-day said: As the delta of the Piave could not have been held without heavy sacrifice, we have withdrawn our troops which were stationed there to the dike positions on the eastern bank of the main branch. This operation was carried out during the night of July 5-6. The enemy felt his way at midday yesterday as far as the river.

East of Monte Pertica we drove back strong Italian attacks in sanguinary hand-to-hand fighting.

## Quiet on French Front, Says Paris

**PARIS, July 7.**—The official statements issued by the War Office to-day read:

NIGHT—No events of importance occurred along the front during the course of the day.

DAY—There were artillery actions south of the Aisne, in the region of Longpont and Corey.

American troops carried out a raid in the Vosges, bringing back prisoners.

## Repulsed Raid Near Locre, Haig Reports

**LONDON, July 7.**—The official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France to-day said:

NIGHT—Early this morning the enemy attempted a raid near Locre, but was repulsed. Except for hostile artillery and trench mortar activity in the Bethune sector there is nothing of special interest to report.

DAY—We captured a few prisoners and a machine gun in a raid east of Hamel yesterday afternoon. The hostile artillery has been active in the neighborhood of Fonquevillers and in the Hinges sector.

## Berlin Claims Franco-American Attacks Failed

**BERLIN, July 7.**—The German War Office to-day gave out the following:

DAY—On the battle front between the Saar and the Marne fighting activity was renewed intermittently.

West of Chateau Thierry the French and Americans, in spite of their repeated failures, again attacked with strong forces. These attacks broke down. Bitter hand-to-hand fighting continued until nightfall and also during the night. According to reports by the troops, the enemy's losses were again very heavy.

In the upper Vosges enemy attacks on Hilsenfurt were repulsed.

## Czecho-Slovaks in U. S. Troops Vladivostok Disarm Bolshevik Garrison

**LONDON, July 7.**—A dispatch from Vladivostok, dated Sunday, June 30, to Reuter's United, says that the commandant of the Czecho-Slovaks there sent an ultimatum to the local Bolsheviks. The commandant declared that, as the Bolsheviks, assisted by armed Austro-German prisoners, were opposing the passage of Czecho-Slovaks from Western Siberia to Vladivostok and the local Bolsheviks were showing signs of action in an antagonistic manner toward the Czecho-Slovaks, he considered their resistance. Six hundred sailors gave up their arms and other Bolshevik elements dispersed or surrendered.

## Action Follows Failure of Local Government to Obey Half-Hour Ultimatum

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## Old Administration Restored

The only fighting that ensued was in a building near the railway station, which the Czecho-Slovaks captured in the evening after suffering severe casualties. A considerable number of the Bolsheviks were killed and wounded, including several Maygars.

The duly elected members of the old local administration, who had been ejected from office by the Bolsheviks, have resumed control, but the question of the future government is undecided. Order now prevails and general relief and satisfaction is manifest at the overthrow of the Bolshevik regime.

## Dispatches from Shanghai on July 1 reported that the Czecho-Slovak forces at Vladivostok had defeated the Bolshevik forces there and had dissolved the Bolshevik Council of Workmen and Soldiers' delegates in the city. Advice from Vladivostok reaching London on July 6 stated that the combat had taken place on June 30.

General Semenov Near Chita

It was reported on July 5 that Czecho-Slovak troops had inflicted a severe defeat on the Bolsheviks at Irkutsk, Siberia, and that the Bolsheviks had retreated eastward, taking large quantities of provisions with them.

Between Vladivostok and Irkutsk a body of troops under General Semenov is believed to be fighting the Bolsheviks. At last reports General Semenov was near the town of Chita, on the Trans-Siberian railroad, about three hundred miles east of Lake Baikal and between the forces fleeing from Irkutsk and Vladivostok.

## Anglo-Japanese Troops On Guard at Vladivostok

**LONDON, July 7.**—English and Japanese landing parties entered Vladivostok and patrolled the streets and enforced neutrality in the area where the consulates are located during the fighting between the Czecho-Slovaks and the Bolsheviks, according to a dispatch from Vladivostok.

## 103 U. S. Wounded Identified

The American Fund for French Wounded announced yesterday that its workers in France had identified 103 American soldiers and marines last week in the French hospitals they visited, and had communicated with their relatives in this country. Some of the men were in hospitals where no English was spoken, and their greetings to the American workers were most enthusiastic.

of causing the Germans heavy defeats, with slight casualties to the attacking infantry.

Details are now available concerning the work of the large fleet of tanks which participated in Thursday's battle. The tanks rendered invaluable assistance to the attacking infantry. Officers say that this was one of the most economical assaults ever undertaken on the British front owing to the fact that the tanks saved casualties among the infantry by mopping up machine gun posts and strong points in advance.

In numerous instances whole machine gun crews, with their rapid-firers, were literally ground into the earth by the tanks, which swept over the enemy posts like steam rollers.

One group of tanks alone destroyed or captured more than thirty machine guns and brought about the surrender of at least 200 Germans. In addition, many Germans were slain by these great engines.

Other tanks were doing similar work. Taken as a whole, the Boche infantry surrendered or bolted on the approach of these monsters, the appearance of which in itself is terrifying. The German machine gunners, however, fought to the last in many instances.

Numerous times the Australian and American infantrymen communicated with the tank crews and gave them the direction from which hostile machine gun fire was coming. In every case the tank was able to deal with the rapid-firers and thus allow the infantry to advance.

A tank, which was 200 yards in front of the Allied infantry, destroyed a nest of six machine guns by running over it after the gun crews refused to surrender.

Another tank crushed three rapid-firers, but a fourth machine gun continued firing at a distance of five or six yards. This gun in turn was run over and destroyed, together with its crew.

At one point a tank moved against a mound which seemed a likely place for a machine gun. No sign of the enemy was to be seen at first, but after the tank had reached the mound once about forty Germans came out of a camouflaged trench and ran toward the Allied infantry to surrender.

During the consolidation of the new lines the tanks patrolled the front for nearly half an hour for snipers.

On one sector, when snipers in a cornfield were making things uncomfortable for men at work on the defenses, tank drivers moved across No Man's Land and fired several shells into the corn. With the explosions the enemy jumped up in various parts of the field and all were killed by the fire from the tank.

## Australians' Easy Victory Causes Fear Of a German Trap

**LONDON, July 7.**—The ease with which the Australians and Americans kicked the Germans out of the Villers-Bretonneux region on Thursday should be a matter for reflection, according to Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters.

Commenting on the double victory of the Australians in this region, where their latest advance has given them a good view of the valley immediately in front of them, the correspondent says the new line enables the British to command for some five thousand yards a series of long, gentle slopes to the south of the Somme. To achieve such an extremely successful advance in a bit of country for which the Germans fought so fiercely, he adds, must obviously arouse suspicion.

Granting the perfect planning of their attack and the superb performance," he contends, "more resistance should have been met, and the defeat should not have been so complete."

In describing how a German officer was "obliterated" for having, after surrendering, shot an American sergeant, the correspondent remarks that Germany should beware of such acts of treachery.

"The American is not a soft fighter at any time," he says. "It took a good deal to get him into the war, and it is going to take a good deal to get him out of it before the war is finished. The finish he believes in is 'dead Germans.'"

"But when avenging treachery he is a hard fighter indeed. Let me should forget what he had to do, he went into the fight shouting 'Lusitania!'"

## Aviators Fight Fire in Air

**HARTFORD, Conn., July 7.**—Lieutenant F. H. Bentley, of the aviation service, and his mechanic, Sergeant Harold Atkins, had a thrilling experience while flying over Hartford late to-day when their airplane took fire while about 2,000 feet in the air. They landed uninjured, having put out the fire on the way down before the machine had been seriously damaged. They were bound from Middletown, where they had spent the Fourth, for Mineola, L. I.

As they reached Hartford the oil had broken, scattering oil over the machine and on Bentley's face. The machine caught fire immediately. He shut off the engine and volplaned to the ground. The fire was put out meantime with an extinguisher and the men made an easy landing in Goodwin Park. A small section of one of the wings was burned. They expect to leave for Mineola to-morrow.

## Our Men Cool In First Fight On British Line

## Troops Slept Soundly Just Before They Were Called Into Battle

(By The Associated Press)

**WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, July 7.**—Last night the correspondent slept on the ground among the troops of one star company of Americans who played a prominent part in Thursday's great show. From the men and officers he heard the details of this first great fight of the Yankees on the British front.

Some facts have been told before, but the story as related by one of the officers contained many new features concerning the activities of our boys. He told it in a simple manner, without frills and without boasting. And here is what he said:

"The Americans went into the line after a hard march. The Fritz was undoubtedly not in the least expecting the attack was to be made. At midnight Wednesday we were sent forward to lie out, ready for an advance at 3:10 o'clock Thursday morning.

"Many of our boys were tired when they reached the positions, and despite the fact that they were just embarking on the biggest adventure of their lives—a leap into the unknown—they threw themselves on the ground and slept soundly. It was an encouraging sign to us, for it meant that the men were not jumpy. They never show any sign of nerves, as a matter of fact."

"For us officers there was no sleep during that three hours' wait. There were conferences to be held with the Australians, and then, too, the responsibility was weighing heavily on us. We knew that our lads would come through clean, but we could not help being a bit anxious."

"We had to admire the coolness of the Australian officers, who told stories and laughed as though nothing was going to happen, though we Americans knew that shortly before the kick-off the Germans would put down a barrage which would be the signal for all hands on the job."

A few minutes before the barrage was due the Allied artillery opened with a harassing fire, and we American officers were out among our men hot-footing to keep them steady, fearing they might mistake this for the barrage."

"Then came the barrage, and we never dreamed there could be such gunfire. It was tremendous. The gunners certainly did a wonderful job."

"The infantry started to advance. My men were headed for Hamel village, and our first trouble was encountered in a brand belt of barbed wire in front of the Boche forward line of defense. The tanks had opened the way through most of this, but in spots some of our men were held up for a little time."

"I saw a funny thing here. One of my corporals, who had been a guard officer in a penitentiary and who has a reputation for being a hard customer in light, got hung up in the wire. He had no cutters, and so sat down on the ground and started pulling the stuff out of his legs, barb by barb."

"A Boche got a machine gun on him and was making things hot, but the corporal kept on pulling the wire, meantime roaring curses at the Hun."

"Frame a trick like this on a white man, will you? Let me out of here and I'll show you."

Takes Revenge on Boche

"These were some things I heard him yell, with a lot more less complimentary. He finally got out, but his uniform looked as though he had been run through a threshing machine. What he did to the Boche after that was plenty."

"About this time a German shell exploded near us and two of my men went hurrying through the air. I thought sure the poor fellows were done in, but in a minute I heard one of them call over to his pal, 'Hey, John, are you dead?'"

"From down among the churned up ground nearby came the response: 'No, are you?'"

"We got through the barbed wire very well and reached the Boche front line trenches. They were thinly held and we cleared them out with bombs and rifles on the jump. We hardly stopped here at all, but passed over toward the village."

"You understand that when I speak of 'we' I am talking about the Yankees and the Australians, for we were only helping in the show."

"The support trenches, which had dugouts, were more strongly held, but we cut our way through without much difficulty. A lot of Huns were being killed or captured by this time. From the direction of Hamel the German machine guns and rifles were working hard and there was plenty of stuff coming our way."

"When we reached Hamel we found a lot of dugouts filled with Boches and their snipers up trees with machine guns. We cleaned them all out systematically. One of our sergeants, with an American private and an Australian came right up to a dugout containing four German officers and some men. The officers started to come up and one of them pulled a revolver. The sergeant shot him through the head and two of the other officers who started to fight, were killed. The rest surrendered."

"In another dugout one of our sergeants and three privates captured six Boches. One of them was up finally. The last I saw it was still flying, with the German guns on it."

"There was a lively battle southeast of Hamel where the Germans had strong machine gun posts. Australians and Americans got in back of these posts, and the Germans surrendered when we charged with the bayonet."

"We worked around the Vaire and Hamel woods, which had been pretty well cleared of the Boche by gunfire. Just in front of Vaire Wood one of our boys, whom we call 'Scotty,' had a great experience. He came to a dugout filled with Boches, who had been left behind the American advance. He naturally thought some of our men were there and went down. It was dark so he could not see them. The answer was a crack on the head. He knew then that they were not Yanks, and opened fire with his rifle in the darkness. Finally a Boche began to yell 'Komodo!' When the fight was over it was found that he had killed five Germans, and he took nine prisoners."

"I got so close to our final objective all right, and carried out the consolidation without much interference from the Boche, who did not recuperate quickly."

Attempts of the enemy to recapture the lost ground were repulsed. Some prisoners have been taken.

Vienna's account of the engagement admitted that the Allies had gained advantages at two points, but asserted the territory taken was immediately won back by a counter attack.

The French official statement follows:

"Eastern Theatre, July 6.—There were reciprocal artillery actions in the Vardar and Cerna Bend regions. Enemy patrols have been very active in the neighborhood of the Strumitsa."

West of Gorizia French troops, operating with Italian units, attacked the heights between the Devoli and Tomorica rivers for the purpose of improving their position. They seized

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